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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

STR-04 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W
---------- 007126
R 171630Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1394
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEWT, GE, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE ECONOMIC GROUP VISITS GDR

REF: BERLIN A-55, AUGUST 15, 1975

1. A GROUP OF JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISTS ORGANISED UNDER THE RUBRIC OF THE "JAPAN-GDR ECONOMIC COMMITTEE" (TOKYO A-56) VISITED THE GDR AND BERLIN SEPTEMBER 6-9. THE EVENT RECEIVED WIDE AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE IN GDR MEDIA, ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH SED FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER ON SEPTEMBER 9. ALTHOUGH NOT MADE PUBLIC HERE, THE MAIN PURPOSE AND RESULT OF TRIP ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY WAS TO COMPLETE AND SIGN A PROTOCOL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION BY JAPANESE FIRMS OF A 23-STORY TRADE CENTER ON FRIEDRICHSTRASSE IN DOWNTOWN BERLIN (REFAIR) AT A COST OF $40 MILLION. THE PROTOCOL REPRESENTS A COMMITMENT BY BOTH SIDES THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY JAPANESE ON THE BASIS OF CONTRACTS YET TO BE CONCLUDED. JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER SAID IT IS PLANNED THAT WORK BEGIN ON THE PROJECT IN FEBRUARY 1976. INDIVIDUAL JAPANESE FIRMS AND JAPANESE OFFICEHOLDERS IN SUB-GROUPS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ALSO TOOK THE
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OPPORTUNITY OF THE VISIT TO HOLD BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS

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WITH GDR COUNTERPARTS.

2. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBASSY, IN A MEETING OF THE JAPANESE GROUP WITH HONECKER, THE LATTER CONFINED HIMSELF TO GENERALIZATIONS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS. OVER LUNCH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY BEIL TOLD THE JAPANESE THAT HE THOUGHT BILATERAL TRADE TURNOVER, NOW ABOUT $90 MILLION ANNUALLY, SHOULD RISE 40 PER CENT NEXT YEAR. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY SAID THE GDR WILL SEND A TOTAL OF EIGHT TRADE DELEGATIONS TO JAPAN IN 1975 IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE SALES OF TEXTILE MACHINERY, PRINTING MACHINERY, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, TOYS, AND PORCELAIN DISHES.COOPER

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